

## REMARKS

### Claim Objections

The Examiner stated that claims 25-27 are not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution.

Applicant has noted that the Examiner has properly renumbered claims 25-27 as 26-28.

The listing of the claims contained herein uses the correct claim numbering.

### Claims Election/Restrictions

The Examiner stated that claims 27 and 28 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

- I. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-16, 19 and 26, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 219, subclass 685.
- II. Claims 27-28, drawn to a method, classified in class 219, subclass 756.

The Examiner also withdrew claims 27 and 28 from consideration.

Applicant has accordingly cancelled claims 27 and 28.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicant has noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has allowed claims 1-7, 9, 11-16, 19, and 26.

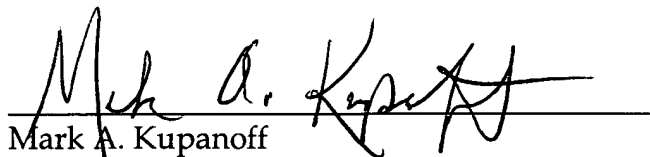
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Stephen M. De Klerk (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: April 30, 2004

  
Mark A. Kupanoff  
Reg. No. 55,349

Customer No. 008791  
12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030  
(408) 720-8300